

# Things that you can do at home: 10

*Here we have some more activities for you to try at home. Remember, there is no pressure to do any of these activities but we want to make sure you've got some ideas of things you can do! Play and investigation are so important to children's learning; it really is the best way for children to learn.*

For our Reception Leavers, don't forget to head to our facebook page. We have created some videos of readings of stories about children starting Primary School. These will be immensely helpful to get a conversation happening about their transition to primary school.

Start a collection of bottle and container lids; these will be great for Maths activities to do at home (counters, templates for making circles) and also for craft activities. In fact any kind of container can be reused for crafting purposes. Think outside the box and let your imagination go wild!

In your garden or the next time you go for a walk make it a mission to find plants, or natural things that smell. Collect some of these items as you go on your walk or hunt in the garden. To really get a sense of the smell of some things like herbs or rose petals, adding some force can really bring out the scent; rubbing between your fingers is a good option but if you have a mortar and pestle you can really mash them up and get a good scent. If not, find something to bash them on the concrete with to access the scent. This is a great sensory activity.

Why not try some shadow drawing? If you can find some sun this week, lay a piece of paper on the ground and using one of your child's favourite toys, place it in a position

where the shadow emerges on the paper. Then get your child to trace around the shadow on the paper. Afterwards, you can decorate and add some colour to really bring your shadow animal alive!

If you have some chalk and masking tape, why not try this activity:



## TAPE SHAPES

### What you need:

Masking tape, chalks (other media could be used if done on paper/ cardboard) and a space to create

### What to do:

Tape out as big or small an area as you feel necessary - this could be done on paper, cardboard box, a path or the fence

Use the masking tape to create shapes within the taped out area

Colour in the different sections (we used chalk but if using paper you could use other media)

Once finished peel off the masking tape

Stand back and enjoy your masterpiece!

If you have some flour, water, a balloon and some newspaper, you have all the ingredients you need for paper mache! All you need is an old newspaper, comics or magazine, 1 level mug of plain flour, 1 level mug of warm water, plus extra tap water for loosening and a balloon. Mix the flour and water together to make your paste. Blow up your balloon and tie the end. Tear up strips of the newspaper or magazine, dip them in the paste mixture and then lay them around the balloon. Keep layering up until you have gone over the balloon a few times to give it some structure. Let the paste dry and then once it is dry you can pop the balloon and then decorate the outside of the paper mache. Be creative and see what you can come up with!

Get your child to help with chores around the home. Using masking tape, mark out a square on the floor and give your child a broom and ask them to sweep the floor, aiming to get all the dirt in the square. This is a great activity to teach spatial awareness and also give your child a real sense of achievement as they help you with the housework.

Have you ever been on an animal walk before? Tell your child you will be moving around like different animals. Play some music and dance around however you want to. Make the music stop and call out the name of an animal. Both you and your child can start moving around the room like that animal, make animal noises and really go wild! Play the music again and when the music stops, call out a different animal.

It's going to be wet this week so why not get your child in waterproof clothing (or not, if you're not particularly bothered if they get wet, and play jumping over puddles! This is a great physical activity that will test how far they can jump. Ask your child what might be in the puddle that they have to jump over. Is it a crocodile, a shark or a sea monster! Use your imagination and get physical.